

**CANYONS SCHOOL DISTRICT
MINUTES OF BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING
December 15, 2015**

The Board of Education of Canyons School District met in a study session and business meeting on Tuesday, December 15, 2015 beginning at 5:42 pm at the Canyons Support Services Building, 9351 S. 300 East, Sandy, UT 84070

Those present were:

Clareen Arnold, Board Member
Robert Green, Board Member
Chad Iverson, Board Member
Amber Shill, Board Member
Sherril Taylor, Board President
Nancy Tingey, Board Second Vice President
Steve Wrigley, Board Vice President
James Briscoe, Superintendent
Leon Wilcox, Chief Financial Officer
Daniel Harper, General Counsel

1. Closed Session--5:42 pm

- A. For the purpose of discussing the character, professional competence, or physical or mental health of an individual.

MOTION: Robert Green moved that the Board go into closed session for the purpose of discussing the character, professional competence, or physical or mental health of an individual. Steve Wrigley seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken. Chad Iverson, yes; Clareen Arnold, yes; Steve Wrigley, yes; Sherril Taylor, yes; Nancy Tingey, yes; Amber Shill, yes; and Robert Green, yes. The motion passed unanimously.

2. Study Session--6:30 pm

- A. 24 Credit Diploma Update--Dr. Robert Dowdle
- Last year the Board gave the administration authorization to conduct a 24-credit pilot. Salt Lake and Alpine Districts only offer 24-credit diplomas. Other districts offer both the 27-credit diploma and the 24-credit diploma. In Jordan District, they funnel alternative or at-risk students to Valley High School where they earn 24-credit diplomas.
 - In the Canyons District pilot, counselors and administrators identify students at risk within the school. They then go through a process with the parents, counselor, administrator and the student to discuss the student's needs. Students are allowed to stay in the comprehensive high school and graduate with their peers. Diamond Ridge, our new alternative high school, also offers 24-credit diplomas.
 - The policy to allow graduation with 24 credits has affected our graduation rate and will be more impactful in the future. This will take kids off the drop-out list and help them to graduate.
 - The principals proposed the criteria for these diplomas and these guidelines have been adopted. These diplomas will only be awarded to seniors and would not be available to early graduates. Recipients do not qualify for an advanced or honors designation. All of the district and state requirements are met with this diploma. The 24-credit diploma is not advertised.
 - This year we had 53 students who qualified for this diploma. Some schools were more aggressive in looking for these students than others. All principals have been encouraged to make sure their counselors are identifying these students. We don't want to miss students who will benefit from this option. Last year principals were trying to be conservative. Without this diploma, 53 students would not have graduated. Many of these students had emotional success stories.
 - Clareen Arnold suggested that we look at what grade students are dropping out and let them know about this alternative choice sooner. Dr. Dowdle said this is a good point to consider. Mr. Green said we need to

be very careful in using this alternative. We need to address what is causing students to drop out, not offer them an alternative. We don't want people to be tracked into a lower standard.

- Mrs. Arnold asked how we can require more than the state requirements for graduation. Dr. Dowdle explained the state requirements are the minimum. Districts can require more of their students for graduation. Davis School District is the one district in the state that only offers a 27 hour diploma.
- Karen Sterling calculated that in last year's four-year cohort there were 463 drop outs. With our early warning system it is usually not a surprise who is going to drop out. Behavior, attendance and grades are indicators of who is at risk.
- Dr. Dowdle highlighted two touching stories of students who were able to use the 24-credit diploma to graduate. One was a cancer survivor. Another student struggled with mental issues and was not on track for graduation. He was incredibly emotional at graduation because he had been given the opportunity to graduate. Many of the 53 students had similar feelings.
- The high school principals and the academic team are requesting that the 24-credit diploma become a permanent option for seniors who could benefit from this program. The principals and the counselors are very interested in getting this into the hands of the right students and to continue to help most of our students do their very best.
- Chad Iverson asked if any student asked for the 24-hour diploma and the request was turned down. Dr. Dowdle said no one was turned away. We did have several students who were approached and ended up dropping out because they couldn't make it for various reasons. This option is extended by invitation.
- Nancy Tingey felt to make this an on-going program, it will need to be in policy. She asked that it go through the Policy Committee to formalize it.
- Clareen Arnold would like students to be identified in their junior year.
- President Taylor said the Board would like this to be continued and asked Dan Harper to bring it to the Policy Committee.

B. Graduation Rates--Dr. Hal Sanderson

- Dr. Sanderson said in the past we had very few options for struggling students. Now that we are providing more options, it will take several years for the outcomes to show in the data.
- The four-year cohort graduation rate reflects the number of students who graduate in four years with a regular high school diploma. The cohort is determined by the number of students who entered 9th grade in the Canyons School District four years prior. The graduation rate in 2015 is based on 9th graders in the fall of 2011. At that time the 9th graders were in the middle schools.
- The state graduation rate has been going up.
- We are improving data accuracy. The majority of this work has focused on Exit Codes and tracking students. If students say they are going to another state without verification that they enrolled at another high school, they are considered drop outs from our district.
- Our graduation rate is going the right direction. It has improved from 83.0% in 2011 to 85.1% in 2015. Data for individual schools was reviewed. Almost every school is above state average. Entrada is an adult high school but it is included in the graduation rate. It has been used to help students who aren't making it in a traditional school. These students will now be serviced through Diamond Ridge
- There has been significant improvement based on more accurate record keeping and other initiatives implemented to serve students. Hillcrest has increased almost 7% from 2014 to 2015. We are getting a more accurate picture with these numbers.
- Graduation rates of individual subgroups were reviewed. There was a discussion of how to increase the graduation rate for English Learners and Low Income students.
- The rates for some subgroups dropped. We need to address this. When there is a small "N" group, there is more impact if a few students drop out. Also, when students learn English they are no longer part of the English Learner subgroup. So, as they become more proficient, they move to a different subgroup. The data shows areas that need our attention.
- Practices to improve graduation rates for all students include: Improving Grad Rate Data, Awarding 24-Credit Diplomas, Canyons Procedural Changes; Diamond Ridge High School, Better use of the Early Warning System, United Way Partnership, and Hillcrest Feeder Proposal.
- Dr. Briscoe asked that the number of drop outs be broken down by high school.
- Mr. Green asked if we have considered teaching ELL students more intense language skills before they are expected to learn other subjects. Karen Sterling explained every state is bound by Federal Title 3 laws and

OCR interpretations. At Granite, they tried this. But it was found students were not given an opportunity for inclusion in all of their core classes. At Canyons, we are streamlining ELL student schedules and giving them two-block periods of learning English, individualized tutoring, and practicing with mentors. National statistics show that kids have to learn English in context. We have a safety net in a lab setting with a teacher who knows their background. We are working within the confines of policy.

- Dr. Sanderson provided some information that was requested by Board members at the last meeting. First, he reviewed the percentage of students taking concurrent enrollment classes in grades 11 and 12. Brighton High was low because they have a heavy emphasis on AP.
- The average yearly scale score rate gain on the ACT from 2012 to 2015 was presented. The rate increased 0.3 in English and Science. There was an increase of 0.2 in Reading and a slight decrease in Math. Benchmark data was also reviewed.

3. Business Meeting Opening 7:30 pm.

4. Opening Items

A. President Taylor thanked everyone for attending the meeting.

B. Approve Agenda for December 15, 2015

MOTION: Steve Wrigley moved to approve the agenda for December 15, 2015. Clareen Arnold seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

- C. Pledge of Allegiance-- Isaac Boogaard, Jacob Carlson, Logan Robbins, Jackson Horner, Robby Royce, Cub Scout Troop 4613, Sprucewood Elementary Leaders: Tysa Royce and Teresa Robbins
- D. Reverence and School Highlights-- Lori Jones, Principal, Sprucewood Elementary
 - Principal Jones reflected on the holiday classic tale of How the Grinch Stole Christmas. She encouraged everyone to have encounters with our children. When we watch children sing, play or bake, our hearts may grow and replace any lack of hope we may have for the future.
 - At Sprucewood is a small but close-knit community. They recently had a Night of the Arts where they integrated the theme--Dream Big, Be a Super Hero. There is a beginning and advanced orchestra at Sprucewood. Students participate in the Hour of Code. Teachers are busy applying for grants to supply their students with technology. Recently, they had Google Expeditions. Through the CEO (Chief Example to Others) program, students are encouraged to build good character such as kindness, service to others, grit and persistence. Playworks was recently added to the school. In 2016, students will be encouraged to participate in Mad Scientists. They use LAND Trust monies to focus on reading intervention. Students have read 200,000 minutes so far this year on the Road to Success. They have a fabulous PTA. Principal Jones invited Board members to visit their school.

5. Recognitions--Jennifer Toomer-Cook and Jeff Haney

- Karen Sterling received the Champion in After School Award from the Utah Afterschool Network for her tireless efforts to ensure all students receive the support and opportunities they need to achieve academic success. She is an advocate for children and promotes innovative programs.
- Six schools, their principals and child nutrition services leaders were recognized for being Bronze-level award winners in the Healthier US School Challenge. Those recognized were: Principal Corrie Barrett and Sandra Mattingley from Brookwood Elementary; Principal Piper Riddle from Draper Elementary; Principal Lori Jones and Katy Musser from Sprucewood Elementary; Principal Kierstin Draper and Angela Floyd from Oakdale Elementary; Principal Leslie Jewkes and Susan Taylor from Peruvian Park Elementary; and Principal Nicole Svec-Magann and Aukse Barauskiene from Altara Elementary. Each school received \$500 and a plaque.
- Academic All-State students are best in their respective sports, key contributors to varsity teams, and committed to high academic achievement. The following student athletes were recognized:
 - Girls Tennis: Caroline Young, Hillcrest
 - Girls Soccer: Felicia Caten, Brighton; Nicole Jessen, Sabrina Rowland and Emily Sorge, Hillcrest
 - Girls Cross Country: Madison Haycock, Jordan; Rachel Madsen and Madison Sudweeks, Corner Canyon.
 - Boys Cross Country: Chase Zagorec-Marks and Austin Scroggin, Alta; Albert Hanks and Andrew Lawson, Corner Canyon

- Boys Golf: Keegan VanLeeuwen, Brighton; Christopher Cheney and Parker Reber, Jordan; Preston McIllece, Alta
- Volleyball: Hannah Stearman, Brighton; Kendra Dean, Jordan; Brooke Heide, Alta
- Football: Jacob Adams, Alta. Jacob is a cancer survivor who has been able to maintain a 4.0 GPA while undergoing chemo and radiation treatments.
- Josh Davis, Alta, was named the KSL 4A MVP. He is a junior running back who caught for more than 2,000 yards and 26 touchdowns this year.
- Emilee Astle, Alta, was the 4A State Tennis Singles Champion as a freshman. She has been ranked No. 1 in Utah for girls tennis players under 16 by the United States Tennis Association.
- Julianna Smith, Draper Park Middle School, won the Make Your Mark Bookmark Contest sponsored by the Utah Educational Savings Plan. Her art was selected from more than 2,000 entries statewide. She received a \$1,000 scholarship.
- Teisa Mahe, Midvale Middle, was the winner of the Salt Lake County Library Meme Contest. She won \$1,000 for her clever meme. "I went on a blind date with a book; it ended happily ever after." Four winners were selected from 700 entries.

6. Patron Comments

- A. President Taylor reviewed the guidelines for Patron Comments.
- B. Jen Butters, the CEA President, thanked the Board for the work they have done this year. They have really tackled some hard, controversial issues in a thoughtful manner. She feels the Board has had the best interest of the Canyons District students at the heart of all of their decisions. She gave each Board member a Starbuck's red cup as a token of their appreciation.

7. Consent Agenda

- A. Approval of Minutes from December 1, 2015 Board Meeting
- B. Approval of Purchasing Bids
- C. Approval of Student Overnight Travel
- D. Approval of Hire and Termination Reports
- E. Approval of November Financial Statements
- F. Approval of U-Save Loan for Eastmont Middle Utility Upgrade
- G. Approval of LAND Trust Amendment

MOTION: Chad Iverson moved to approve the Consent Agenda. Amber Shill seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Discussion:

Nancy Tingey asked how we have used U-Save loans in the past. Leon Wilcox explained we have taken out two loans. They were used to get several elementary schools up to Energy Star Status. We now have twenty schools at that level. We have seven more that have qualified but still need to go through the inspection process. Eastmont has an all-electric system that is about forty years old. It is very inefficient and tough to regulate. We would use this money to put in new fans and blowers and digital controls. Mr. Wrigley said the loan is paid by energy savings. Mr. Wilcox agreed we will probably save about \$115,000 per year. It will help us provide a comfortable learning environment for the students.

8. New Business

- A. 2016-17 and 2017-18 School Calendar (Third Reading, Action Requested)
 - Dr. Floyd Stensrud presented the results of a survey regarding the two early-out Thursdays for Parent/Teacher Conferences. Of the total 729 teachers surveyed, 318 responded. 94% agreed they would like the early out. There were 179 parents who responded. Just under 70% voted in favor of having the early out time. Fourteen schools would be impacted with a total of 47 teachers with the large class size. The teachers felt regardless of the number of students in the classroom, the time spent with parents during Parent/Teacher Conferences is paramount. It grants an additional 90 minutes for teachers to meet with parents and would only affect elementary schools.
 - Mrs. Tingey said when we initiated the current elementary schedule there was discussion of having early out days only on Fridays. This asks for an exception to that. She thanked Dr. Stensrud for streamlining the calendar. This eliminates scattering random days off for elementary

and secondary students. She clarified that the start/stop and major holiday dates are the same as the dates approved on the tentative calendar last year. Also, the Parent/Teacher Conferences for all levels will be held the same week. Traditionally, the Board has given final approval for the upcoming year's calendar and tentative approval for the following year. That is what we will be doing tonight.

- Amber Shill talked about the calendar at the Brighton SCC. They requested that Mrs. Shill ask why we can't start school later. They would prefer that we start the fourth week of August instead of the third. Dr. Stensrud said most parents are actually in favor of getting out of school earlier rather than going later into June. Most of the children's summer activities start immediately after school ends. Guidelines were established a few years ago that said we would start on the third Wednesday of August unless there are five Wednesdays in August. For the next few years, we will be starting on the fourth Wednesday.
- President Taylor said the Calendar Committee has done a great job on the calendars and he thanked them for their work.

MOTION: Amber Shill moved to approve the 2016-17 calendar and the 2017-18 tentative school calendar. Clareen Arnold seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

9. Staff Comments

A. Superintendent Report

- Superintendent Jim Briscoe wished everyone a happy holiday season. He reminded them that on Thursday, December 17 we will have the annual Road Home fund raiser. He asked anyone who would like to donate to contact the Canyons Education Foundation. The money will be specifically used to support the families in Canyons School District. This is a time to help those who don't have all of the opportunities others have. There is more information on our web page.

B. Chief Financial Officer Report

- Leon Wilcox said yesterday we got hit hard around 6 am with snow. He thanked the bus drivers. There were only a couple of minor slide offs. He also thanked the lunch workers. We had a two hour delayed start today but lunch was at the same time so the workers had to come in at the same time. It was a big chore to get lunch prepared today. He thanked facilities personnel and custodians for making sure the boilers were going and the parking lots were cleared. He wished everyone happy holidays.

9. Board Comments

- A. Chad Iverson appreciates the work of everyone over the last several days. The most important thing is that everyone made it safely to school and home. Everyone worked hard to make that work. The two-hour delayed start today was a hit.
- B. Clareen Arnold feels this has been an awesome year. It has gone by fast. They have had difficult decisions, good discussions, caring thoughts, remarkable sharing, long nights, marvelous data, superior presentations, and excellent educational practices. They have done a lot of reading and a lot of learning. She can't think of anyone she would be more proud to stand by than the people in the room tonight, the people watching and the people she sits on the stage with. She thanked everyone for making it a wonderful year.
- C. Steve Wrigley said a few weeks ago he was asked to explain to a group of Webelos what the Board does. One boy said they needed to have a longer recess. One of his fellow scouts said he liked learning and he especially likes Brain Boosters. The kids are really excited about the Boosters. He appreciates the administration keeping them informed about what is going on in the District. He went with Dr. Briscoe to the Alta Silver and Black National Debate. There were kids from all over the United States. It was amazing. He is excited that this year there are so many great things happening in White City. White City is going to put in new water piping for Eastmont. They are also putting in a trail through the city starting in Sandy. This will allow students to walk safely to school. He wished everyone a very merry winter season.
- D. Nancy Tingey reported that she attended the State Board of Education Committee Meetings. In the meeting she attended, the State Board was considering approving a seal of bi-literacy statewide. She was proud to share that Canyons District already offers that to our graduating

students. Canyons District is a leader in the state. She appreciates the excellent professionals that are helping us lead out. When volunteering in a Kindergarten class, she had the opportunity to do the Hour of Code. It was great to see five and six year olds learning these foundational concepts of coding. She committed that she was going to progress through the elementary levels. It was very interesting and she loves learning new things. She challenged others to join her in learning code by going to code.org, teacher lessons, K-12. It will be fun to work on this in the new year. She thanked everyone for the work they have done during the last few snow days. Mother Nature sometimes steps in and insists that we step away from our regular routines and forces us to take another look at things. She appreciated the school and district personnel, transportation, parents and students who did what needed to be done and made the best of a challenging situation. She thanked the schools, PTAs and others for providing service opportunities for students. It is an important part of the educational process for students to reach out of their immediate circles and get experiences where they can give and serve others. She shared a quote attributed to Larry H. Miller. "Go out and do good until there is too much good in the world." It has been a great year. She feels it has been a privilege and honor to work with the Board to serve this community.

- E. Amber Shill thanked Leon Wilcox and Rick conger for giving her a tour of the new Butler Elementary. It was exciting to see the three wings in different stages of completion. That community is excited for the building to be completed next fall. She went on a Google Expedition with fourth graders at Canyon View. They went to the American Museum of Natural History. It was a 360 degree view and students were allowed to zoom in on things. She hopes we will be able to get some of the expeditions in the future to go on virtual field trips. She and Nancy Tingey went to Bagels at Brighton. While they were there, they got to explain to students what school board members do. She thanked everyone who worked really hard to make the best of the snow situation. The year has gone fast and she has learned a lot. She loves serving and working with the Board members and administration. She shared her wish that they have great holidays.
- F. Robert Green went to Union Middle School and visited with Kelly Tauteoli. She is a wonderful principal. He visited Jordan Valley School and talked with Principal Mark Donnelly. He got to see some of the upgrades that have taken place there. It is awesome that in our country we offer learning at every level for everybody. Most countries don't do that. We have a wonderful education system. He thanked the CEA for their gift.
- G. Sherril Taylor thanked all of those who have worked so hard the last few days to keep our students safe. He recognized those who are the roads at 5:30 am and thanked them for all they do to keep our students safe. He thanked those who work in the lunchrooms and came in early. He asked Dr. Stensrud to thank the members of the Calendar Committee for the hard work they have done to provide two good calendars. The public will work with us on the calendar if we can get it to them early enough so they can make plans.

10. Closing Items

- A. Adjourned at 8:40 pm

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ATTEST

Sherril Taylor

President

James Briscoe

Superintendent